

**PCT**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
International Bureau

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b> <b>A61K 9/00</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 99/44580</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 10 September 1999 (10.09.99)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/EP99/01395 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 4 March 1999 (04.03.99) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 98104035.5      6 March 1998 (06.03.98)      EP <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> EURAND INTERNATIONAL S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Via Martin Luther King, 13, I-20060 Pessano con Bornago (IT). <b>(72) Inventor; and</b> <b>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only):</b> DOBETTI, Luca [IT/IT]; Via Mayer, 13, I-34142 Trieste (IT). <b>(74) Agents:</b> GERVASI, Gemma_ et al.; Notarbartolo & Gervasi, Corso Porta Vittoria, 9, I-20122 Milano (IT).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> FAST DISINTEGRATING TABLETS  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  This invention provides a formulation for preparing a fast disintegrating tablet comprising a drug in multiparticulate form, one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients, one or more disintegrants; and optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients, the amounts of said ingredients being such as to provide a disintegration time for the tablet in the order of 75 seconds or less, typically 30 seconds or less.		

**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece		Republic of Macedonia	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon		Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CN	China	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	KZ	Kazakstan	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		

### **FAST DISINTEGRATING TABLETS**

5 This invention relates to fast disintegrating tablets and particularly to tablets which not only disintegrate rapidly but also have good friability characteristics.

The tablets of this invention are particularly suitable for rapidly releasing a water soluble or water insoluble drug in granular or microencapsular form, e.g where the drug is for controlled, sustained or targeted release, or where the drug requires gastric protection or  
10 taste masking, etc.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

15 Over the past years, coated multiparticulate dosage forms have become increasingly important in the development of both controlled release and taste masked pharmaceutical formulations.

Among the variety of coating technologies, microencapsulation is widely recognised as a versatile technique for the coating of particles of active drugs to enhance their  
20 therapeutic value. Microencapsulation is achieved by two distinct processes, namely coacervation/phase separation and air suspension coating. These processes envelop small particles of the drug substance into minute, discrete, solid packages which to the naked eye appear as a fine powder.

25 Although in the marketplace there are many different solid dosage forms for peroral administration containing microencapsulated drugs, such as tablets, capsules, sachets, etc., presently there is a strong demand for multiparticulate palatable dosage forms characterised by a rapid disintegration time.

30 Such solid oral dosage forms are particularly advantageous for applying large single doses orally, since a tablet or other shaped form can be difficult to swallow especially for patients such as children and the elderly. These problems can be exacerbated when no water is available.

35 Chewable tablets containing coated particles of active drugs are a well-known dosage form (see for instance the textbook "Pharmaceutical dosage form - tablets" Vol. 1 edited by H A Lieberman et al. Marcel Dekker, Inc. (1989).

They are intended to disintegrate in the mouth under the action of chewing and typically they are larger than tablets which are intended to be swallowed. Advantages over dosage forms for swallowing include improved bioavailability through the immediate  
5 disintegration, patient convenience through the elimination of the need for water and patience acceptance through their pleasant taste.

Nevertheless, a common problem of chewable tablets is that chewing can cause a breakdown of the membrane that coats the active particles. Furthermore, the extent of  
10 mastication, which is associated with the length of time in which a drug remains in the mouth, plays an important role in determining the amount of taste masking. As a result, the drug's unpleasant taste and throat grittiness are often perceived by the patient.

To overcome such problems, other solid dosage forms known as fast dispersing or  
15 disintegrating tablets have been developed. Fast disintegrating tablets containing particles of active are based on the presence of one or more disintegrating agents which allow the tablet, when taken up by mouth, to disgregate quickly into many coated cores of active. However the presence of such ingredients tends to weaken the tablet's structure leading to poor friability values.

20 Accordingly, fast disintegrating tablets have suffered from problems due to their limited physical integrity as evidenced by their high friability compared to the conventional tablet forms. Thus fast disintegrating tablets have previously been found to fracture or chip easily and therefore require careful packaging and handling prior to placing them in  
25 the mouth. Generally as well as disintegrating agent, such tablets may also contain other pharmaceutical ingredients for example swelling agents or thickening agents which are responsible for producing, when the tablets disintegrates directly in the mouth or in a glass of water, a viscous medium that facilitates the suspension of the solid particles. As a result, the total weight of the fast disintegrating tablets can be rather high; thus such  
30 dosage forms are generally less acceptable to a patient especially when high dosage of active is required.

Freeze drying processes have been used to prepare fast disintegrating dosage forms. Depending on the manufacturing process, the product obtained is characterised by a solid  
35 dried highly porous microstructure of the soluble supporting agent (i.e. mannitol, glycine, lactose, gelatins, etc) in which the active is homogeneously dispersed. Although this technology produces a product which rapidly disintegrates in water or in the oral

cavity, a drawback is represented by the poor physical integrity of its physical structure which severely limits further manufacturing operations such as forming blister packs.

5 Another significant drawback of the freeze drying technology in manufacturing such dosage forms is the high production costs because of the lengthy duration of each freeze drying cycle (normally from 24 to 48 hours). The complexity of the industrial plants is another important factor which prejudices the large scale use of this technology for the development of rapid disintegrating tablets. Moreover, the thermal shocks, as a direct  
10 consequence of each freeze drying cycle, might physically modify the physical-chemical properties of the outer membrane of microencapsulated particles.

There is a need therefore for a compression tablet with fast disintegrating properties and satisfactory structural integrity and especially such a tablet having a rapid disintegration time when taken by mouth (e.g. within 45-40 seconds, preferably within 30 seconds and  
15 most preferably 20 seconds or less). There is a need for a fast disintegrating tablet that is small for improved patient acceptability without reducing the clinical performance. There is also a need for a fast disintegrating tablet (such as a tablet which disintegrates in the mouth in 75 seconds or less) having an enhanced structural integrity, for instance having a friability lower than 2.0% according to USP XXIII test; preferably lower than  
20 1.5% and most preferably 1.0% or lower.

Further there is a need for a fast multiparticulate disintegrating tablet that can be produced on industrial scale with a simple manufacturing process based on a direct compression method of a mixture of selected ingredients.

25

There is also a need for a fast disintegrating tablet preferably having an extremely short disintegration time, quantifiable in less than 20 seconds, when taken directly by mouth without water and without the necessity of chewing the tablet and wherein the active is in the form of microcapsules having controlled release and/or gastro-resistance and/or  
30 taste masking properties.

Advantageously any multiparticulate fast disintegrating tablet should possess a physical integrity approaching that of a conventional tablet without limiting the disintegration performance of the tablet.

35

We have surprisingly found that by careful selection of ingredients, it is possible to prepare fast disintegrating tablets using conventional tableting means that have either

disintegration rates which are faster than previously known tablets or show superior friability properties, or both. Furthermore we have been able to prepare fast disintegrating tablets without the need to use substances which effervesce on contact with water.

5

It has now been found that the above-mentioned drawbacks of previous tablets may be overcome by using a dry mixture of pharmaceutically acceptable excipients in selected amounts. This mixture comprises at least one water insoluble inorganic excipient and at least one disintegrant in appropriate amounts and optionally combined with one or

10

We have surprisingly found that the disintegration time of tablets having satisfactory mechanical properties (such as hardness and friability), when placed in the oral cavity depends not only on the quantity of disintegrant used, but also on the quantity of the insoluble inorganic excipient and if present soluble excipient and the relative weight ratio between these components (disintegrant, insoluble excipient and drug and if present soluble excipient).

15

As a result disintegration can occur in less than 20 seconds with the disintegration occurring exclusively under the action of the components (i.e. chewing is not required). Tablets are obtained by mixing the components of the solid mixture in powdery form, (where the active is in the form of coated or uncoated particles) and directly applying compression forces to produce tablets having enhanced physical integrity without affecting their excellent disintegration properties.

20

25

By optimising the disintegrant's performance, it is also possible to get a total weight decrease of the finished dosage form in comparison for instance with those produced with different technologies and characterised by a similar disintegration time. No other prior art approach, based on direct compression, attains these beneficial results.

30

Accordingly this invention provides a fast disintegrating tablet comprising a drug in multiparticulate form, e.g. granular or microencapsulated; one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients, one or more disintegrants; and optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients, the amounts of said ingredients being such as to provide a disintegration time in the mouth in the order of 75 seconds or less, eg. 40 seconds or less, preferably less than 30 seconds, most preferably less than 20 seconds.

35

We have also found that it is possible to apply sufficient compression when forming the tablet to produce tensile strengths which impart the desired characteristics such as low friability without adversely affecting disintegration rates.

- 5 Friability is an index which provides a measure of the ability of a tablet to withstand both shock and abrasion without crumbling during the handling of manufacturing, packaging, shipping and consumer use. As a means of controlling and quantifying the measurement of friability, a laboratory device known as Roche friabilometer, is routinely used. The method to determine such measurement refers to both USP XXIII and European  
10 Pharmacopoeia prescriptions. Conventional tablets that lose less than 0.5 to 1.0% in weight are generally considered particularly acceptable. Of course, depending on their physical characteristic, fast disintegrating tablets previously known have higher friability weight losses.
- 15 Accordingly a further aspect of this invention provides a tablet adapted to disintegrate in less than about 75 seconds, preferably 40 seconds or less comprising a drug in multiparticulate form, e.g. granular or microencapsulated; one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients; one or more disintegrants; and optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients, the amount of said ingredients and the tensile strength of the  
20 tablet being such that the tablet has a friability value less than 2%, preferably less than 1.5% most preferably about 1% or less.

- The drug used is preferably substantially water insoluble or is coated with an outer substantially water insoluble membrane or layer which protects/isolates the active at least  
25 through the mouth and throat and if required through the stomach or through the stomach and the small intestine. The coated or uncoated microparticles of the drug may typically have a particle size distribution ranging from approximately 20 to about 1000 microns. Average particle size can be for example 120 to 150 microns or more, eg. 200 microns. In order to produce a palatable mouth feel without grittiness, microparticles with a  
30 maximum particle size lower than 700 microns are preferred. Coated microparticles of active drug can be obtained through various well known technologies such as for instance, but not limited to, phase separation and fluid bed coating. Coated microparticles having taste masking properties are preferably obtained by phase separation (coacervation) since this process ensures the most uniform coverage of a drug  
35 substance.

Uncoated microparticles of active include substantially water insoluble particles which can be produced for instance by well known technologies such as dry granulation, wet granulation, melt granulation, direct pelletization with a rotor granulator and extrusion spheronisation.

5

The amount of coated or uncoated multiparticulate drug is generally 14% or more of the tablet weight depending on the active and can be up to 75% or more. Typical ranges of coated or uncoated active are from 20% to 70% by weight of tablet. For actives such as ibuprofen, preferred ranges are from 40% to 60%.

10

Disintegrating agents suitable for use in the present formulations include pharmaceutical excipients which facilitate the break-up of a tablet when it is placed in aqueous environment. Disintegrants once in contact with water, swell, hydrate, change in volume or form to produce a disruptive force that opposes the efficiency of the binder/s causing the compressed table to break apart. They belong to different morphological classes and possess different functionality properties. A non-limiting list of the different classes of disintegrants or mixtures thereof which can be used in the formulations of the present invention is given below:

15

- 20 (1) natural starches, such as maize starch, potato starch etc., directly compressible starches such as starch 1500, modified starches such as carboxymethylstarches and sodium starch glycolate which are available as PRIMOJEL<sup>®</sup> and EXPLOTAB<sup>®</sup> and EXPLOSOL<sup>®</sup> and starch derivatives such as amylose.
- (2) cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidones, e.g. crospovidones available as e.g. 25 POLYPLASDONE XL<sup>®</sup> and KOLLIDON XL<sup>®</sup>.
- (3) modified celluloses such as cross-linked sodium carboxymethylcelluloses available as, e.g., AC-DI-SOL<sup>®</sup>, PRIMELLOSE<sup>®</sup>, PHARMACEL XL<sup>®</sup>, EXPLOCEL<sup>®</sup>, and NYMCEL ZSX<sup>®</sup>;
- (4) Alginic acid and sodium alginate.
- 30 (5) Microcrystalline cellulose, e.g. AVICEL<sup>®</sup>, PHARMACEL<sup>®</sup>, EMCOCCELL<sup>®</sup>, VIVAPUR<sup>®</sup>.
- (6) Methacrylic acid-divinylbenzene copolymer salts available as eg AMBERLITE<sup>®</sup> IRP-88.

35

Preferred are categories (1), (2) and (3) listed above which are known in the art as the so-called 'super' disintegrants. Accordingly it is preferred that the disintegrant present in the formulations of this invention comprises at least one super disintegrant. Particularly preferred are cross-linked PVPs.



Although microcrystalline cellulose is often regarded as a weak disintegrant, it is also used in preparing tablets because of its properties as a filler and plasticising agent and therefore can be regarded as a substantially water insoluble excipient.

5

We have found the presence of microcrystalline cellulose is particularly advantageous in achieving superior tablet characteristics because of its plasticising properties. Accordingly in yet a further aspect, this invention provides a tablet as defined above which further comprises microcrystalline cellulose.

10

The multiparticulate fast disintegrating tablets of this invention are obtained by standard tableting procedures such as by forming a dry mixture which comprises all of the above mentioned components prior to direct compression in punches/dies.

- 15 Substantially water insoluble inorganic excipients include for example, water insoluble fillers and/or diluents, eg salts such as dibasic calcium phosphate, calcium phosphate tribasic, calcium sulfate and dicalcium sulfate. Particularly preferred is dibasic calcium phosphate (hydrated or anhydrous) with the anhydrous form being most preferred. Advantageously the particle size of the water insoluble inorganic excipient is such that at  
20 least 35% of the particles are larger than 75 $\mu$ m. Preferably at least 45% of the particles are larger than 75 $\mu$ m. Most preferably at least 80% of the particles are larger than 75 $\mu$ m.

- Substantially water soluble components that may be used in the present invention include  
25 for example, compression sugars or soluble fillers (e.g. lactose, sucrose, amylose, dextrose, mannitol, inositol etc.), flavouring agents, sweeteners (e.g. aspartame, saccharine etc.), pH adjusting agents (e.g. fumaric acid, citric acid, sodium acetate etc.), binders (e.g. polyethylene glycols, soluble hydroxyalkylcelluloses, polyvinylpyrrolidone, gelatins, natural gums etc.), surfactants (e.g. sorbitan esters, docusate sodium, sodium  
30 lauryl sulphate, cetrimide etc.), soluble inorganic salts (eg sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium chloride etc.).

- In preferred embodiments, the dry mixture of the essential components of the invention gives rise upon direct compression to fast disintegrating tablets having a disintegration  
35 time of less than 20 seconds in the oral cavity.

When preparing the fast disintegrating tablets of this invention we have found that superior tablet properties can be achieved by choosing appropriate amounts of the ingredients according to the classification shown below:

- 5 (A) insoluble ingredient; this includes the amount of drug either coated or uncoated and the amount of insoluble excipients including the insoluble inorganic salt used as filler/diluent, (eg di- or tri-basic calcium phosphate) organic filler (eg microcrystalline cellulose) or water insoluble lubricant (eg magnesium stearate, sodium stearyl fumarate, stearic acid or glyceryl behenate) and glidant (eg talc, silicon dioxide etc).
- 10 (B) substantially soluble components, eg the amount of compression sugars (eg lactose, flavouring agents, sweeteners (aspartame), binders (eg PVP) and surfactants etc.
- (C) disintegrant, especially super-disintegrant such as maize starch or modified  
15 starches, cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone or sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

We have also found that for constant ratios of ingredients (A) and (B) increasing the amount of disintegrant generally gives poorer friability values and increased disintegration times. In view of this the amount of super disintegrant (C) should not be  
20 excessive and is therefore preferably in the range 0.5 to 30%, most preferably 1-20%, most preferably 2-15% by weight of the tablet.

The amount of the substantially water insoluble components (A) can be for example in the range 50-99.5% of the formulation by weight, eg. 60-99.5%, preferably 70-95%,  
25 most preferably about 72-92% by weight.

The amount of substantially water insoluble inorganic excipient may be for example in the range 2-40% of the formulation by weight, eg 2-35%, preferably 4-25%, most preferably about 6-18% by weight. As the amount of insoluble component decreases we  
30 have found that the disintegration time increases. Accordingly where the active ingredient is very potent, disintegration time is optimised by compensating for the absence of insoluble drug or insoluble microencapsulated drug (where the drug can be soluble or insoluble) by including an insoluble filler, eg microcrystalline cellulose, silicon dioxide or by increasing the amount of insoluble inorganic excipient, eg calcium  
35 salt such as dibasic calcium phosphate. Advantageously the amount of coated or uncoated active relative to substantially water insoluble inorganic excipient is in the range 25:1 to 0.35 :1; preferably 10:1 to 0.37:1; most preferably about 9:1 to 2:1.

The amount of the optional substantially water soluble component(s) (B) is for example in the range 0-25% of the formulation by weight, preferably 0-20%, most preferably about 4-16% by weight.

5

Microcrystalline cellulose can be present in the range up to 40% by weight of the formulation, preferably 5 -30%, most preferably about 8 to 25%, eg 12-22% .

10

The amount of water insoluble inorganic excipient(s) relative to super disintegrant(s) can be in the range between 1:9 and 9:1; preferably in the range 1:5 to 4:1 by weight; most preferably in the range 1:2.5 to 3.6:1 by weight.

15

When microcrystalline cellulose is present the ratio of water-insoluble inorganic excipient to microcrystalline cellulose is preferably in the range 100:1 to 1:9 by weight.

The powder formulations of this invention are conveniently prepared using conventional procedures to ensure homogeneous mixing of the components. Tablets may be formed from such formulations by direct compression methods.

20 The following Examples illustrate the invention:

### GENERAL PROCEDURE -FOR EXAMPLES 1-14

Powder mixtures were prepared according to the general procedure given below:

5

The excipients (except magnesium stearate) were premixed in a polyethylene bag by manual shaking and sieved through a 700  $\mu$ m screen. Microcapsules were added to the excipient mixture and mixed in a 8 litre or 1.6 litre cube using an Erweka AR400 blender (D-Heusenstamm) for 20 minutes at 20 rpm. Magnesium stearate if used was added to mixture at this stage and mixed for 5 minutes at 20 rpm. Compression was performed with a rotary tableting machine (Ronchi mod. AM13/8, I-Cinisello Balsamo), equipped with either two 12mm or 15mm diameter scored flat punches. Operating conditions were standardised at 20 rpm. The tableting machine was instrumented to measure compression and ejection forces with strain gauges, interfaced to a Yokogawa mod. 3655E data computer and analyser.

15

### TABLET CHARACTERISTICS

20 Hardness was measured by diametral crushing on a Schleuninger mod. 6D hardness tester (CH-Solothurn). The tests were performed according to European Pharmacopoeia 1997 Section 2.9.8.

Average tablet weight and weight variation were calculated using a Mettler mod. PM460 balance (Sae Scientifica, I-Mazzo di Rho), equipped with calculator Stat Pac-M and printer GA44.

25

Thickness was determined using a Mitutoyo mod. 500-311 caliper (Tecnogalencia, I-Cernusco sul Naviglio).

30

Friability was measured by an Erweka TA friabilometer (D-Heusenstamm). The test was performed for 4 minutes using 20 tablets.

Disintegration time was determined by placing a tablet into a 2 litre beaker (14 cm diameter, 18 cm height) containing 1 litre of water at room temperature whilst continuously stirring using a helix at  $100 \pm 5$  rpm. The helix was placed in a fixed

35

position just below the water surface. The complete dispersion of the tablets was considered as the end point.

## 5 **EXAMPLE 1**

Fast disintegrating tablets were made according to the method above using formulations having the ingredients shown in Table 1 below:

10

**TABLE 1**

<b>FORMULATION INGREDIENT</b>	<b>EXAMPLE 1 weight(mg)</b>	<b>COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1A weight(mg)</b>
Ibuprofen MC	530	530
Aerosil 200V	6	6
Avicel PH101		90
Kollidon CL	60	60
Ac-Di-Sol	50	50
Dicafos C52-14*	250	
Lactose SD		160
Aspartame	25	25
Strawberry Flavour	15	15
Talc	50	50
Magnesium stearate	4	4
<b>Total tablet weight (mg)</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>990</b>
<b>Total weight/g (starting mixture)</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>1980</b>

\*Dicafos C52-14 = dihydrate dibasic calcium phosphate

## **RESULTS:**

15

### **15mm diameter tablets**

20

Tablets having 15mm diameter were made from the ingredients of Example 1 with tensile strengths of 0.38 N/mm<sup>2</sup> (compression force 20kN) and 0.47 N/mm<sup>2</sup> (compression force 25.2kN). Disintegration times were 20±1 seconds and 21±1 seconds respectively. For comparison tablets (15mm diameter) were also made according to

Example 1A (based on Example 1 of US Patent No. 5464632) which differed by containing no inorganic insoluble filler/diluent. At tensile strengths of 0.39 and 0.59 N/mm<sup>2</sup> the latter produced much slower disintegration times of 40±2 seconds and 46±2 seconds respectively.

5

Friability values for the 15 mm diameter tablets of Example 1 were improved by compression being 4.4% (compression force 20kN) and 1.4% (compression force 25.2kN) for the respective formulations above.

10 Accordingly these results show it is possible to prepare tablets according to Formulation 1 having very good disintegration times in the order of 20 seconds. Furthermore, friability values equal to or approaching those of conventional tablets (eg 2% or less) can be routinely produced by increasing the tensile strength without compromising the disintegration times.

15

In order to make the disintegration time faster for the comparative formulation 1A the compression force to prepare the tablet was lowered to 15kN. However although this resulted in a disintegration time of 33±6 seconds, the tablet's integrity was weakened as evidenced by the increase in friability value to 4.6%.

20

#### 12mm diameter tablets

When the formulations in TABLE 1 above were prepared into 12mm diameter tablets the following disintegration times/friabilities were obtained:

FORMULATION	TENSILE STRENGTH (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	DISINTEGRATION TIME (seconds)	FRIABILITY(%)
Example 1	0.96	17±1	0.1
	0.52	15±1	0.5
Comparative Example 1A	1.12	41±3	0.1
	0.59	31±2	0.2
	0.41	26±1	1.6

25

These results show the formulation of the present invention is suitable for producing very rapidly disintegrating tablets with friabilities in the range of conventional tablets that not only disintegrate more rapidly than the prior art but also demonstrate exceptional friability properties.

30

**EXAMPLE 2**

The following formulation was prepared using the general method described above:

5

**TABLE 2**

<b>FORMULATION INGREDIENT</b>	<b>EXAMPLE 2 weight(mg)</b>
Ibuprofen MC	225
Avicel PH101	71
Starch 1500	98
Dicafos C52-14	71
Aspartame	20
Strawberry flavour	15
Magnesium stearate	5
<b>Total weight/mg (tablet)</b>	<b>505</b>
<b>Total weight/g (starting mixture)</b>	<b>353</b>

Dicafos C52-14 = dihydrate dibasic calcium phosphate

10

**RESULTS**

12mm diameter tablets were prepared from the formulation of Example 2 at a tensile strength of 0.51 N/mm<sup>2</sup> (compression force 16.6 kN). The tablets so produced had a disintegration time of 28±1 seconds with a friability of 0.7%.

15

**EXAMPLE 3**

Formulations having the following ingredients shown in TABLE 3 below were prepared  
5 and made into 12mm diameter tablets.

**TABLE 3**

<b>FORMULATION INGREDIENT</b>	<b>EXAMPLE 3</b>	<b>COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 3A</b>
Ibuprofen MC	240	240
Aerosil 200V	5	5
Avicel PH101		120
Maize Starch	7	7
Kollidon CL	27	27
Dicafos C52-22*	120	
Citric Acid	15	15
Aspartame	10	10
Strawberry Flavour	20	20
Magnesium stearate	15	15
<b>Total weight/mg (tablet)</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>459</b>
<b>Total weight/g (starting mixture)</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>321</b>

10

\*Dicafos C52-22 = anhydrous dibasic calcium phosphate

**RESULTS**

15 Tablets (12mm diameter) prepared from the formulation of Example 3 when compressed to produce a tensile strength of  $0.62 \text{ N/mm}^2$  had a disintegration rate of  $29 \pm 1$  seconds and a friability of 0.4%.

20 Tablets (12mm diameter) prepared according to the formulation of Example 3A having a tensile strength of  $0.67 \text{ N/mm}^2$  showed complete disintegration only after  $103 \pm 5$  seconds.



Friabilities of both tablets of Examples 3 and 3A were both very good at <0.5% but in view of the slow disintegration of the Example 3A formulation this cannot be considered to constitute a rapidly disintegrating tablet.

- 5 These Examples show that the presence of dibasic calcium phosphate imparts superior disintegration properties when compared with a formulation comprising in which this component is replaced by microcrystalline cellulose.

10

**EXAMPLE 4**

A formulation was made up according to the ingredients in TABLE 4 below. Tablets were prepared having 12mm diameter.

**TABLE 4**

15

FORMULATION INGREDIENT	EXAMPLE 4
Ibuprofen MC	240
Aerosil 200V	5
Avicel PH101	75
Maize Starch	7
Kollidon CL	27
Dicafos C52-14* (dihydrate dibasic calcium phosphate	45
Fumaric Acid	15
Aspartame	10
Strawberry Flavour	20
Pruv	15
<b>Total weight/mg (tablet)</b>	<b>459</b>
<b>Total weight/g (starting mixture)</b>	<b>321</b>

## RESULTS

By increasing the compression force during tablet preparation a series of tablets with increasing tensile strengths were made.

Disintegration times were found to fall below about 20 seconds at tensile strength values  $<0.7 \text{ N/mm}^2$ . The friability value at tensile strength 0.68 was found to be 0.2% and the *in vitro* disintegration time was 18 seconds

Comparison with the results in Example 3 above, shows that the presence of microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH101) in the ratio 75:45 to dibasic calcium phosphate gives a faster disintegration time than tablets containing no microcrystalline cellulose (Example 3) and also improves friability values.

## EXAMPLES 5 - 7

To compare the disintegration efficacy of crospovidone with other disintegrants belonging to different morphological classes such as AC-DI-SOL® and maize starch, the following mixture of the components (i), (ii) and (iii) was prepared. Components (ii) and (iii) were sieved through a 700 micron screen and mixed in a blender equipped with a 18L steel cube for 20 minutes at 20 rpm. Component (i) previously sieved through a 700 micron screen, was added to the excipient mixture and mixed for 15 minutes at 20 rpm. The quali-quantitative compositions is the following:

30	(i)	Ibuprofen microcapsules	2400g
		(cellulose acetate phthalate membrane)	
	(ii)	Fumaric Acid	150g
30		Aspartame	100g
		Strawberry Flavour	200g
35	(iii)	Microcrystalline cellulose	750g
		Calcium phosphate tribasic	450g
		Compacted Silicon Dioxide	50g
[Ingredients (i) and (iii) are substantially insoluble; ingredients (ii) are substantially soluble].			

Samples (246g) were taken from the starting mixture and poured into a 1.6 litre steel cube. To the samples were added 9.0g of sodium stearyl fumarate and the following quantities of disintegrating agent:-

5 (Example 5) 13.2g of crospovidone

(Example 6) 13.2g of sodium croscarmellose

(Example 7) 13.2g of maize starch

respectively, previously sieved through a 700 micron screen. Each mixture was mixed for 10 minutes at 24 rpm.

10

Compression was performed with a rotary tableting machine (Ronchi mod. AM 13/8), equipped with two 12mm diameter scored flat punches. Operating conditions were standardised at 20 rpm and with respect to obtaining tablets with tensile strengths of about 0.45 to 0.55 N/mm<sup>2</sup>.

15

Each tablet contains 240mg of ibuprofen microcapsules corresponding to 200mg of active.

The relevant data for the fast disintegrating tablets are shown in Table 6.

20

**TABLE 6**

**Ibuprofen Disintegrating Tablets dosage: 200mg per tablet**

Formulation	Weight (mg)	Thickness (mm)	Friability (%)	Tensile Strength (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	Disintegra- tion Time (seconds)
Example 5	447±5	3.63±0.04	2.0	0.46	16±1
Example 6	445±4	3.53±0.04	0.6	0.54	31±2
Example 7	450±6	3.50±0.03	1.9	0.55	22±1

25

The results indicate that the objectives of the present invention are met with a selection of different disintegrating agents. The use of these disintegrating agents can be successfully extended to microcapsules containing other drugs.

30

**EXAMPLE 8**

5 According to the general procedure described in Example 5 above, the following pharmaceutical mixture was prepared:

	(i)	Fluoxetine microcapsules (ethylcellulose membrane)	620g
	(ii)	Aspartame	90g
10		Strawberry Flavour	190g
	(iii)	Microcrystalline cellulose	760g
		Dicalcium phosphate	480g
		Compacted Silicon Dioxide	20g
		Magnesium Stearate	140g
15	(iv)	Crospovidone	250g
		Maize Starch	60g

[Ingredients i) + iii) are insoluble in the mouth; ii) are soluble and iv) are super disintegrants.]

20 Compression was performed with a rotary tableting machine (Ronchi mod. AM13/8), equipped with two 9mm diameter scored flat punches. Operating conditions were standardised at 20 rpm and with respect to obtaining tablets with a tensile strength by using compression forces of about 4.5kN. Each tablet having a weight of 261mg contains 62mg of fluoxetine microcapsules corresponding to 20mg of active. The  
25 friability was 0.5% and the *in vitro* disintegration time was 17 seconds.

**EXAMPLE 9**

30 2000g of a wet granulate of cimetidine with PVP K 30 as binder, each granule having a size lower than 700 microns, was microencapsulated by phase separation process with 400g of ethylcellulose. The microcapsules of cimetidine were dry mixed with the excipients according to the procedure described above. The following pharmaceutical mixture was prepared:

35

- |     |                           |       |
|-----|---------------------------|-------|
| (i) | Cimetidine microcapsules  | 2400g |
|     | (ethylcellulose membrane) |       |

	(ii)	Lactose SD	150g
		Fumaric acid	150g
		Aspartame	100g
		Strawberry flavour	190g
5	(iii)	Microcrystalline cellulose	760g
		Dicalcium phosphate	480g
		Compacted silicon dioxide	20g
		Magnesium stearate	140g
	(iv)	Crospovidone	250g
10		Maize starch	60g

[Ingredients (i) + (iii) are insoluble in the mouth; (ii) are soluble and (iv) are super disintegrants.]

- 15    Compression was performed with a rotary tableting machine (Ronchi mod. AM 13/8), equipped with two 12mm diameter scored flat punches. Operating conditions were standardised at 20 rpm using compression forces of 17-20kN to obtain tablets with a tensile strength of about  $0.60\text{N/mm}^2$ . Each tablet had a weight of 470mg and contained 240mg of cimetidine microcapsules corresponding to 200mg of active. The friability
- 20    value was 0.6% and the *in vitro* disintegration time was 22 seconds.

Examples 8 and 9 illustrate the use of a mixture of super-disintegrants.

**EXAMPLES 10-14**

5 The following formulations were prepared and made into tablets with the characteristics described in the TABLE below:

**TABLE 7**

FORMULATION INGREDIENTS	EXAMPLE 10 weight (mg)	EXAMPLE 11 weight (mg)	EXAMPLE 12 weight (mg)	EXAMPLE 13 weight (mg)	EXAMPLE 14 weight (mg)
Ibuprofen Microcapsules	240	240	240	240	240
Aerosil 200V (Silica)	5	5	5	5	5
Avicel PH101 (Cellulose)	75	75	75	103	103
Ca Phosph. Tribasic	45	45	45	62	62
Fumaric Acid	15	15	15	-	-
Aspartame	10	10	10	-	-
Strawberry Flavour	20	20	20	-	-
Crospovidone (Koll. Cl.)	9	22	43	43	85
Na Stearyl Fumarate	15	15	15	15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>510</b>
Tensile strength (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	0.59±0.05	0.46±0.06	0.43±0.01	0.38±0.04	0.38±0.05
Friability (%)	1.0	2.0	4.6	1.4	1.7
Disintegrating time (secs)	19±2	16±1	18±2	22±1	25±4

**EXAMPLES 15 - 23****GENERAL PREPARATION**

- 5 Powder mixture were prepared according to the general procedure given below:

The excipients (except magnesium stearate) were premixed in a polyethylene bag by manual shaking and sieved through a 700  $\mu$ m screen. Microcapsules were added to the excipient mixture and mixed in a 1.6 L (or 30 L) cube using an Erweka AR400 blender  
10 for 20 minutes (or 25 minutes) at 20 rpm (or 15 rpm). Magnesium stearate, previously sieved through a 700  $\mu$ m screen, was added to the mixture and mixed for 20 minutes (or 10 minutes) at 20 rpm (or 15 rpm). Compression was performed with a rotary tableting machine (Ronchi mod. AM 13.8), equipped with two 13 mm diameter biconvex (R=20 mm) punches. Operating condition were standardised at 20 rpm.

15

**TABLET CHARACTERISATION**

In vivo disintegration time was performed with 3-5 volunteers.

In vitro disintegration time was determined by placing a tablet into a 2 litre beaker 14 cm diameter, 18 cm height containing 1 litre of water at room temperature whilst  
20 continuously stirring using a helix at 100 $\pm$ 5 rpm. The helix was placed in a fixed position just below the water surface. The complete dispersion of the tablets was considered as the end point.

Disintegration test, according to Pharmacopeia Europoeia, was also performed.

25

The other tests for tablet characterisation (average tablet weight, hardness thickness and friability) are as referred to in the "Tablet Characterisation" section of Examples 1 to 14.

- 30 The following formulations (EXAMPLES 15-23) were prepared and tested:

**EXAMPLE 15**

INGREDIENT	mg/TABLET
Ibuprofen microcapsules (cellulose acetate phthalate membrane)	247 (active 200)
Maize starch	65
Sodium croscarmellose (Ac-Di-Sol ®)	20 #
Citric acid	15
Saccharin	15
Strawberry flavour	16
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH112)	55
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	34
Silicon dioxide	10
Talc < 75 µm	20
Magnesium stearate	13
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>510 mg</b>

Tablets were made using two 13 mm diameter biconvex (R=20 mm) punches.

5

**Characteristics:**

Hardness	28-45 N
Friability	0.3-0.6%
In vivo disintegration time	20-25 seconds
10 In vitro disintegration time	30-35 seconds
Disintegration according to Pharm. Eur.	< 20 seconds
# Analogous characteristics were found using Primellose ® and Pharmacel XL ® (other sodium croscarmellose brands) rather than Ac-Di-Sol®.	



**EXAMPLE 16**

INGREDIENT	mg/TABLET
Ibuprofen microcapsules (cellulose acetate phthalate membrane)	247 (active 200)
Maize starch	65
Citric acid	10
Saccharin	24
Banana flavour	12
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH112)	68
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	41
Silicon dioxide	10
Talc < 75 µm	20
Magnesium stearate	13
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>510 mg</b>

Tablets were made using two 13 mm diameter biconvex (R=20 mm) punches.

**Characteristics:**

5	Hardness	38 ± 2 N
	Friability	0.5%
	In vitro disintegration time	34 ± 3 seconds

**EXAMPLE 17**

10

INGREDIENT	mg/TABLET
Ibuprofen microcapsules (cellulose acetate phthalate membrane)	247 (active 200)
Sodium croscarmellose (AcDiSol ®)	20
Citric acid	10
Saccharin	24
Banana Flavour	12
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH112)	98
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	56
Silicon dioxide	10
Talc < 75 µm	20
Magnesium stearate	13
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>510 mg</b>

Tablets were made using two 13 mm diameter biconvex (R=20 mm) punches.

**Characteristics:**

	Hardness	$36 \pm 2$ N
	Friability	0.4%
5	In vitro disintegration time	$35 \pm 2$ seconds

**EXAMPLE 18**

INGREDIENT	mg/TABLET
Ibuprofen microcapsules	247 (active 200)
Amberlite® IRP 88	55
Citric acid	15
Saccharin	15
Strawberry Flavour	16
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH112)	76
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	43
Silicon dioxide	10
Talc < 75 $\mu$ m	20
Magnesium stearate	13
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>510 mg</b>

- 10 Tablets were made using two 13 mm diameter biconvex (R=20 mm) punches.

**Characteristics:**

	Hardness	$30 \pm 1$ N
	Friability	0.4%
15	In vivo disintegration time	30-40 seconds
	In vitro disintegration time	$34 \pm 2$ seconds

**EXAMPLE 19**

INGREDIENT	mg/TABLET
Ibuprofen microcapsules	247 (active 200)
Alginic acid (Protacid ® F-120)	55
Citric acid	15
Saccharin	15
Strawberry flavour	16
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH112)	76
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	43
Silicon dioxide	10
Talc < 75 µm	20
Magnesium stearate	13
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>510 mg</b>

Tablets were made using two 13 mm diameter biconvex (R=20 mm) punches.

**Characteristics:**

	Hardness	33 ± 2 N
5	Friability	0.4%
	In vivo disintegration time	40-45 seconds
	In vitro disintegration time	60 ± 5 seconds

**EXAMPLE 20**

INGREDIENT	mg/TABLET
Ibuprofen microcapsules (cellulose acetate phthalate membrane)	240 (active 200)
Maize starch	60
Sodium croscarmellose (AcDiSol ®)	16
Sodium starch glycolate (Explotab ®)	15
Citric acid	15
Saccharin	15
Mint-Liquorice flavour	16
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH112)	57
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	35
Silicon dioxide	15
Talc < 75 µm	25
Magnesium stearate	11
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>520 mg</b>

**Characteristics:**

	Hardness	46 ± 2 N
	Tensile Strength	0.64 ± 0.03 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
5	Friability	0.2%
	In vivo disintegration time	30-35 seconds
	In vitro disintegration time	46 ± 1 seconds
	Tablets were made using two 12.7 mm diameter flat punches	

10

**EXAMPLE 21**

INGREDIENT	mg/TABLET
Ethylcellulose coated microcapsules of active	510 (active 450)
Crospovidone (Collidon CL®)	90
Ammonium glycyrrhizinate (Glycamil A ®)	40
Aspartame	40
Fisherman mint flavour	40
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH112)	71
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	60
Silicon dioxide	7
Magnesium stearate	22
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>880 mg</b>

**Characteristics:**

15	Hardness	40-50 N	62 N
	Tensile Strength	0.35 - 0.42 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	0.56 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
	Friability	0.8-1.2%	0.3%
	In vivo disintegration time	30-35 seconds	35-45 seconds
	In vitro disintegration time	< 30 seconds	40 seconds
20	Tablets were made using two 16 mm diameter flat punches		

**EXAMPLE 22**

INGREDIENT	mg/TABLET	mg/TABLET
Ethylcellulose coated microcapsules	510(active 450)	510(active 450)
Crospovidone (Collidon CL®)	60	45
Sodium croscarmellose (AcDiSol ®)	25	28
Maize starch	-	12
Ammonium glycyrrhizinate (Glycamil A ®)	39	39
Aspartame	34	34
Fisherman mint flavour	39	39
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH112)	65	65
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	56	56
Silicon dioxide	5	5
Magnesium stearate	17	17
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>850 mg</b>	<b>850 mg</b>

**Characteristics:**

5	Hardness	40 ± 3 N	49 ± 3 N
	Tensile Strength	0.36 ± 0.03 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	0.45 ± 0.03 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
	Friability	1.6%	1.1%
	In vivo disintegration time	40 ± 2 seconds	45 ± 3 seconds
	Disintegration according to Pharn. Eur	< 20 seconds	< 25 seconds
10	Tablets were made using two 16 mm diameter flat punches		

**EXAMPLE 23**

FORMULATION	EXAMPLE 23	COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE
Placebo ethyl cellulose based microcapsules	30 mg	30 mg
Crospovidone (Kollidon CL)	40 mg	40 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH101)	39 mg	20 mg
Lactose	-	102 mg
Dibasic calcium phosphate (Dicafos C52-22)	80 mg	-
Banana flavour	2 mg	2 mg
Aspartame	10 mg	10 mg
Silica	2 mg	2 mg
Gyceryl behenate (Compritol 888 ato) (lubricant)	3 mg	3 mg
Magnesium stearate	4 mg	4 mg
<b>TABLET WEIGHT</b>	<b>210 mg</b>	<b>210 mg</b>

Hardness (N)	26	17
Tensile strength (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	0.62	0.41
Friability (%)	0.2	0.7
In vivo disintegration time (20 subjects)	13 ± 4 seconds	24 ± 7 seconds

Tablets were made using two 9 mm diameter flat punches.

## CLAIMS

1. A formulation for preparing a fast disintegrating tablet comprising a drug in multiparticulate form, one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients, one or more disintegrants; and optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients, the amounts of said ingredients being such as to provide a disintegration time for the tablet in the mouth in the order of 75 seconds or less.
2. A fast disintegrating tablet comprising a drug in multiparticulate form, one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients, one or more disintegrants; and optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients, the amounts of said ingredients being such that the tablet has a friability value less than 2%, preferably less than 1.5% most preferably about 1% or less.
3. A tablet for rapid disintegration in the mouth comprising a drug in multiparticulate form, one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients; one or more disintegrants; and optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients, the amount of said ingredients and the physical resistance (hardness or tensile strength) of the tablet being such that the tablet has a friability value less than 2%, preferably less than 1.5% most preferably about 1% or less and is adapted to disintegrate in the mouth in less than about 75 seconds
4. A formulation or tablet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 in which the disintegration time is in the order of 45 seconds or less.
5. A formulation or tablet as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 in which the disintegration time is in the order of 20 seconds or less.
6. A tablet for rapid disintegration in the mouth comprising a drug in multiparticulate form, one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients; one or more disintegrants; and optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients, the amount of said ingredients and the physical resistance (hardness or tensile strength) of the tablet being such that the tablet has a friability value less than about 1% or less and is adapted to disintegrate in the mouth in less than about 20 seconds
7. A formulation or tablet according to any one of claims 1 to 6 in which the drug used is substantially water insoluble and is uncoated.

8. A formulation or tablet according to any one of claims 1 to 6 in which the drug is coated with an outer substantially water-insoluble membrane or layer.
9. A formulation or tablet according to claim 7 or claim 8 in which the drug or microencapsulated drug has a particle size distribution ranging from approximately 20 to about 1000 microns.
10. A formulation or tablet according to claim 9 in which the maximum particle size is lower than about 700 microns .
11. A formulation or tablet according to anyone of claims 1 to 10 in which the drug including any coating comprises 14% or more by weight, preferably 20 to 75% by weight.
12. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the amount of disintegrant is in the range 0.5 to 30%, most preferably 1-20%, most preferably 2-15% by weight.
13. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the amount of substantially water insoluble components are in the range 50-99.5% of the total formulation by weight, preferably 65-98%, most preferably about 70-95% by weight.
14. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the amount of substantially water insoluble inorganic excipient is in the range 2-40% of the total formulation by weight, preferably 4-25%, most preferably about 6-18% by weight.
15. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the ratio of drug including any coating to water insoluble inorganic excipient(s) is from 25:1 to 0.35:1.
16. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the insoluble inorganic excipient(s) has(have) a particle size in which at least 35% of the particles are larger than 75  $\mu\text{m}$ .



17. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the amount of substantially water soluble component(s) is/are in the range 0-25% of the total formulation by weight, preferably 0- 20%, most preferably about 4-16% by weight.

18. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which microcrystalline cellulose is present in the range up to 40% by weight of the total formulation, preferably 5-30%, most preferably about 8-25% .

19. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the ratio of water-insoluble inorganic excipient(s) to disintegrant(s) is in the range 1:9 to 9:1 by weight.

20. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the ratio of water-insoluble inorganic excipient(s) to disintegrant(s) is in the range 1:5 to 4:1 by weight.

21. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the ratio of water-insoluble inorganic excipient(s) to disintegrant(s) is in the range 1:2.5 to 3.6:1 by weight.

22. A formulation or tablet according to any one of the previous claims in which the ratio of water-insoluble inorganic excipient(s) to microcrystalline cellulose is in the range 100:1 to 1:9 by weight.

23. A formulation or tablet according to any one of claims 1 to 22 in which the disintegrating agent is one or more of the following super disintegrants: a natural starch (eg maize, potato etc.), a directly compressible starch such as starch 1500, a modified starch such as carboxymethylstarch or sodium starch glycolate, a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone (eg crospovidone), or a modified cellulose such as cross-linked sodium carboxymethylcellulose.

24. A formulation or tablet according to any one of claims 1 to 23 in which the substantially water insoluble inorganic filler/diluent is a calcium salt.

25. A formulation or tablet according to claim 24 in which the salt is selected from one or more of dibasic calcium phosphate, calcium phosphate tribasic, calcium sulfate and dicalcium sulfate.

26. A formulation or tablet according to any one of claims 1 to 24 in which the substantially water insoluble inorganic excipient is dibasic calcium phosphate, hydrated or anhydrous.

27. A formulation or tablet according to any one of claims 1 to 26 in which substantially water soluble component when present is one or more of the following: a compression sugar or soluble filler (e.g. lactose, sucrose, amylose, dextrose, mannitol, inositol etc.), flavouring agents, sweeteners (e.g. aspartame, saccharine etc.), a pH adjusting agent (e.g. fumaric acid, citric acid, sodium acetate etc.), a binder (e.g. a polyethylene glycol, a soluble hydroxyalkylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, a gelatin, a natural gum), a surfactant (e.g. sorbitan esters, sodium docusate, sodium lauryl sulphate, cetrimide etc.), a soluble inorganic salt (eg sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, sodium chloride).

28. A tablet for rapid disintegration in the mouth comprising:

(a) 14% to 60% by weight, of a coated or uncoated drug in multiparticulate form which is substantially insoluble in water,

(b) one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients selected from the following: dibasic calcium phosphate, calcium phosphate tribasic, calcium sulfate and dicalcium sulfate; the ratio of (a) to (b) being from 25:1 to 0.35:1,

(c) one or more disintegrants selected from: a natural starch (eg maize, potato etc.), a directly compressible starch such as starch 1500, a modified starch such as carboxymethylstarch or sodium starch glycolate, a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone (eg crospovidone), or a modified cellulose such as cross-linked sodium carboxymethylcellulose;

(d) optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients; the amount of said ingredients and the physical resistance (hardness or tensile strength) of the tablet being such that the tablet has a friability value less than about 1% or less and is adapted to disintegrate in the mouth in less than about 30 seconds.

29. A tablet for rapid disintegration in the mouth comprising:

(a) 14% to 60% by weight of a drug in multiparticulate form which is substantially insoluble in water;

(b) one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients selected from the following: dibasic calcium phosphate, calcium phosphate tribasic, calcium sulfate and dicalcium sulfate; the ratio of (a) to (b) being from 25:1 to 0.35:1,

(c) 1 to 20% by weight of one or more disintegrants selected from: a natural starch (eg maize, potato etc.), a directly compressible starch such as starch 1500, a modified starch such as carboxymethylstarch or sodium starch glycolate, a cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone (eg crospovidone), or a modified cellulose such as cross-linked sodium carboxymethylcellulose; and

(d) optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients; the amounts of (a), (b) and (d) being 60 to 99.5 % by weight of the tablet; the ratio of water-insoluble inorganic excipient to disintegrant being in the range 1:5 to 4:1 w/w; such that the tablet has a friability value less than about 1% and is adapted to disintegrate in less than about 30 seconds.

30. A tablet for rapid disintegration in the mouth comprising:

(a) 14% to 60% by weight of a coated drug in multiparticulate form which is substantially insoluble in water;

(b) one or more water insoluble inorganic excipients selected from the following: dibasic calcium phosphate, calcium phosphate tribasic, calcium sulfate and dicalcium sulfate; having a particle size such that at least 35% of the particles are larger than 75  $\mu\text{m}$ , the ratio of (a) to (b) being from 25:1 to 0.35:1,

(c) 2-20% by weight of one or more disintegrants selected from: natural starch (eg maize, potato etc.), directly compressible starch such as starch 1500, modified starch such as carboxymethylstarch or sodium starch glycolate, cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone (eg crospovidone), or modified cellulose such as cross-linked sodium carboxymethylcellulose;

(d) 5-30% by weight of microcrystalline cellulose; and

(e) optionally one or more substantially water soluble excipients

31. A process for preparing a formulation or tablet according to any one of the preceding claims which comprises homogeneously mixing the ingredients in the required amount and if required applying direct compression to the formulation to produce a tablet.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 99/01395

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 6 A61K9/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 866 046 A (MOH. S. AMER) 12 September 1989  see column 1, line 1 - line 6 see column 3, line 13 - line 25 see column 4, line 29 - line 62 see column 5; example 3 ---	1-7, 9-12, 14, 15, 19, 23-28
X	WO 97 38679 A (NOVARTIS CONSUMER HEALTH) 23 October 1997 see claims 1, 4 see page 6, paragraph 3 ---	1, 4, 5, 7, 23-27
A	EP 0 553 777 A (TAKEDA CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES) 4 August 1993 see the whole document ---	1-31
-/-		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 May 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

09/06/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Ventura Amat, A

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. .onal Application No  
PCT/EP 99/01395

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A,P	US 5 776 492 A (JUERGEN BETZING, ET AL.) 7 July 1998 see the whole document -----	1-31
A	WO 96 24337 A (YAMANOUCI EUROPE) 15 August 1996 see the whole document -----	1-31

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 99/01395

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4866046 A	12-09-1989	WO 9100096 A	10-01-1991
WO 9738679 A	23-10-1997	AU 2636797 A	07-11-1997
		CA 2250115 A	23-10-1997
		EP 0893992 A	03-02-1999
EP 553777 A	04-08-1993	CA 2088334 A	30-07-1993
		JP 5271054 A	19-10-1993
		US 5501861 A	26-03-1996
		US 5720974 A	24-02-1998
US 5776492 A	07-07-1998	DE 19530575 A	20-02-1997
		AU 703310 B	25-03-1999
		AU 6194196 A	27-02-1997
		BR 9604034 A	09-06-1998
		CA 2182939 A	20-02-1997
		CN 1145780 A	26-03-1997
		CZ 9602359 A	12-02-1997
		EP 0759296 A	26-02-1997
		HU 9602266 A	29-12-1997
		JP 9110684 A	28-04-1997
		NO 963430 A	20-02-1997
		NZ 299141 A	19-12-1997
		PL 315749 A	03-03-1997
		SK 104296 A	07-05-1997
WO 9624337 A	15-08-1996	AU 4789696 A	27-08-1996
		BG 101822 A	30-04-1998
		BR 9607189 A	11-11-1997
		CN 1173816 A	18-02-1998
		CZ 9702302 A	12-11-1997
		EP 0801559 A	22-10-1997
		HU 9801677 A	30-11-1998
		NO 973646 A	11-09-1997
		PL 321567 A	08-12-1997